IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-17 in accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~terminal~~ management device ~~for managing~~ <u>to manage</u> costs related to ~~terminal devices~~<u>network apparatuses</u>, said ~~terminal management~~<u>management</u> device comprising:

a storing unit storing management information ~~for classifying~~<u>to classify</u> each ~~terminal device~~<u>network apparatus</u> based on ~~by the~~ <u>a</u> combination type<u>, wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of a business entity providing a service to the network apparatuses that bear the costs related to the network apparatuses, each network apparatus receiving the service from the business entity specified by said combination type</u>~~of at the least one business entity bearing the costs related to the terminal device~~; and

a managing unit managing ~~the~~ sharing of costs related to each ~~terminal device~~<u>network apparatus</u> based on said combination type.

2.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal~~ management device according to claim 1, wherein said management information ~~includes~~ <u>comprises</u> the shared cost or proportional share of business entities in each combination type, and when said combination type is changed relative to each ~~terminal device~~<u>network apparatus</u>, said managing unit computes for each business entity ~~the~~ <u>a</u> difference between the cost, which each business entity corresponding to the combination type of prior to the change is already bearing, and the cost, which each business entity corresponding to the combination type of subsequent to the change will bear.

3.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal~~ management device according to claim 2, wherein, when said combination type is changed relative to each ~~terminal device~~<u>network apparatus</u>, the combination type of each ~~terminal device~~<u>network apparatus</u> stored in said management information is updated to the combination type of subsequent to the change, said managing unit executes said computation relative to all ~~terminal devices~~<u>network apparatuses</u> for which said combination type ~~was~~ <u>is</u> updated.

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4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal~~ management device according claim 1, wherein each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus is ~~capable of connecting~~connected to a network.

5.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal~~ management device according to claim 2, wherein each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus is ~~capable of connecting~~connected to a network, and

said ~~terminal~~ management device further comprises a communicating unit receiving via a network, a network connection request from each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, and, when said combination type is changed relative to each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, the combination type of each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus stored in said management information is updated to the combination type of subsequent to the change,

said managing unit executes said computation relative to at least one of the ~~terminal device(s)~~network apparatuses which sent the network connection request.

6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal~~ management device according to claim 1, wherein each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus is ~~capable of connecting~~connected to a network,

said ~~terminal~~ management device further comprises a communicating unit receiving ~~an~~ said combination type stored beforehand in a ~~terminal device~~network apparatus with a network connection request from the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, and

when said combination type is changed relative to each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, the combination type of each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus stored in said management information is updated to the combination type of subsequent to the change,

said managing unit compares said received combination type with the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus combination type stored in said management information, and in the case of a match, sends to the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus information corresponding to the combination type, and in a case that there is not a match, sends to the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus information corresponding to the combination type stored in said management information, and furthermore, by sending to the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus the combination type of subsequent to said change, updates the combination type stored in the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus to the combination type of subsequent to said change.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal~~ management device according to claim 1, wherein each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus is ~~capable of connecting~~connected to a network,

said ~~terminal~~ management device further comprises a communicating unit receiving ~~an~~ said combination type sent from a ~~terminal device~~network apparatus with a network connection request from the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, and

said managing unit compares said received combination type with the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus combination type stored in said management information, and in the case of a match, sends to the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus information corresponding, to the combination type, and in a case that there is not a match, sends to the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus information corresponding to said received combination type, and furthermore, updates the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus combination type stored in said management information to said received combination type.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal~~ management device according to claim 7, wherein, in a case that there is no said match, upon receiving predetermined temporary change information together with ~~an~~ said combination type sent from the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, said communicating unit sends to the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus information corresponding to said received combination type, and does not update said management information.

9. (ORIGINAL) The ~~terminal~~ management device according to claim 1, wherein costs related to each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus are the purchasing costs of said ~~terminal device~~network apparatus.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~terminal device~~network apparatus capable of connecting to a network, said ~~terminal device~~network apparatus comprising:

a storing unit storing ~~an~~ combination type of at the least one business entity bearing the costs related to the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of a business entity providing a service to the network apparatuses that bear the costs related to the network apparatuses, each network apparatus receiving the service from the business entity specified by said combination type; and

a communicating unit sending ~~an~~ said combination type stored in said storing unit with a network connection request to a predetermined server on the network.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal device~~network apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

an overwriting unit, when said communicating unit receives ~~an~~ said combination type from said server, overwriting ~~an~~ said combination type stored in said storing unit with said received combination type.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal device~~network apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

an overwriting unit, when said communicating unit receives ~~an~~ said combination type from said server, comparing ~~an~~ said combination type stored in said storing unit with said received combination type, and in a case that there is no match, overwriting the combination type stored in said storing unit with said received combination type.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~terminal device~~network apparatus according to claim 10, wherein, when a predetermined combination type is read from a removable storage medium placed in the ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, said communicating unit sends the combination type read from said removable storage medium instead of ~~an~~ said combination type stored in said storing unit with a network connection request to a predetermined server on the network.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A management method executed by a computer to manage ~~for managing~~ costs related to ~~a terminal device~~network apparatuses, the method executed by the computer comprising ~~the steps of~~:

classifying each network apparatus based on a combination type, wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of a business entity providing a service to the network apparatuses that bear the costs related to the network apparatuses, each network apparatus receiving the service from a business entity specified by said combination type~~terminal device in accordance with an combination type of at the least one business entity bearing the costs related to each terminal device~~; and

managing a share of costs related to ~~each terminal device~~ each network apparatus based on said combination type.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage medium capable of being read by a

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computer, said storage medium storing a program comprising ~~the steps of~~:

classifying each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus connecting a network in accordance with ~~an~~ combination type of at the least one business entity bearing the costs related to each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus, wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of a business entity providing a service to the network apparatuses that bear the costs related to the network apparatuses, each network apparatus receiving the service from the business entity specified by said combination type; and

managing a share of the costs related to each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus based on said combination type.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage medium capable of being read by a computer, said storage medium storing:

data of ~~an~~ combination type of at the least one business entity bearing the costs related to each ~~terminal device~~network apparatus connecting a network, wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of a business entity providing a service to the network apparatuses that bear the costs related to the network apparatuses, each network apparatus receiving the service from the business entity specified by said combination type~~,~~; and

a program for sending said combination type with a network connection request to a predetermined server on the network.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~terminal~~ management method executed by a computer to manage ~~for managing the~~ cost of a ~~terminal device~~network apparatus capable of utilizing a service provided by a business entity, the method executed by the computer comprising ~~the steps of~~:

managing the cost of a distributed ~~said terminal device~~network apparatus~~,~~; and

in a case that a service capable of being utilized by said ~~terminal device~~network apparatus is added, managing the sharing of the cost of said distributed ~~terminal device~~network apparatus by the business entity providing the added service and a business entity providing an existing service.